

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
July 14, 2014
DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt
Excused: Moran

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting as presented. Ms. Wassmundt questioned some of the wording contained in Item 3, Collaboration with Community School for the Arts. After some discussion it was agreed that the motion to approve would be postponed to allow the Town Clerk time to review the recording of the meeting. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2014 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger, Mayor Paterson and Ms. Wassmundt who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, called for an investigation into the Superintendent's travel expenditures and asked how the Council is planning to spend the additional revenue from the State.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, offered an apology regarding his mistake in identifying how many years the Community Arts School has operated at a profit. Once the subsidies are eliminated he stated there were no years for which they showed a profit. Mr. Smith questioned contracts entered into by the Town; stated he has identified a pattern of defective disc in response to Freedom of Information requests; and questioned comments made by representatives of Blum and Shapiro with regards to their role as auditors for the Town and the Board of Education.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, asked the Council to investigate the misuse of taxpayer funds with regards to the Superintendent's travel expenses.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, objected to a statement by the Deputy Mayor in the Finance Committee regarding his comments concerning the Council's role in reviewing questionable expenditures of the Board of Education.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report, the Town Manager offered the following responses to questions raised during public comments:

- The Town Council has not yet spent the additional state revenues but will be receiving recommendations from staff in September
- The Town Manager will look into faulty discs in answer to FOI requests
- Mr. Hart reiterated that he has full confidence in the ability and performance of the Director of Finance. The Director has all the necessary qualifications and has been working for the Town for twenty years. The Town Manager asked the Council members and public to look at the record. The Finance Director has guided the Town through some very difficult economic times and actually has improved our financial situation during that time.

By consensus the Council agreed to eliminate the practice of providing Chronicle articles online.

Ms. Wassmundt reported she also requested a disc of a meeting, the first copy of which she was told was defective, although the disc she received worked.

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Ms. Wassmundt asked for clarification as to the academic qualifications of the Finance Director. The Town Manager commented that the Finance Director has a Bachelor of Arts, all the necessary qualifications, and over 20 years of public and private experience.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager provided a construction update. By mid-August there will be 414 leased apartments.

2. Community/Campus Relations

Town and UConn staff are in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct the Fiscal Impact Analysis for UConn's Next Generation project. Three firms have been invited to respond to the Request for Proposals (RFP). A copy of the scope of services and RFP will be provided to Council members.

The Town Manager will be meeting with the State Police and UConn Police to discuss plans for community policing for the fall semester.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues, Four Corners Water and Wastewater Project

The Town Manager reviewed the Four Corners Water and Sewer Project Referendum Schedule and described the educational campaign planned.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Open Space Acquisition, Sawmill Brook Lane Parcel

Mr. Shapiro recused himself from acting or discussing this issue. Mr. Shapiro has provided a letter explaining his recusal to the Board of Ethics, the Mayor and the Town Manager.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, to refer the proposed purchase of the 9.15-acre parcel located at 13 Puddin Lane to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on July 28, 2014 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase.

The motion passed with all voting in favor.

5. Proposed Deletion of the Ordinance Regarding Regional Planning Agency

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on July 28, 2014, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed deletion of the Ordinance Regarding Regional Planning Agency. Motion passed unanimously.

6. South Eagleville Road Bus Shelter

Director of Public Works John Carrington described the structure and funding options available. After some discussion regarding the need to make the shelter both protective and fully accessible the Council agreed, by consensus, to proceed with an enhanced Option 3.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan recapped the Finance Committee discussions and explained that the Four Corners bonding will seek authorization for nine million dollars for the project but will request six million dollars in actual bonding. A discussion of shared services will be on the next Finance Committee agenda.

Chair of the Committee on Committees Peter Kochenburger made the following recommendations for approval:

- the appointment of John McGuire (Economic Development Commission), Joan Buck (Conservation Commission) and Michael Soares (Town Council appointment) to the Connecticut Water Advisory Committee
- the appointment of Kristine Nowak as a citizen member of the Transportation Advisory Committee for a term ending 11/30/2017

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Kochenburger moved to amend the Resolution to Establish a Town Council Sustainability Committee to change the Town Manager from a voting member to an ex-officio member.

The motion passed unanimously.

In response to a question from Ms. Raymond regarding Mr. Hultgren's appointment to the Transportation Advisory Committee, Mr. Hart reported that Mr. Hultgren had been appointed as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) by the Council and that the Committee had elected him chair. Prior to his retirement he served as staff to TAC. Mr. Kochenburger noted the issue had been raised at the Committee on Committees meeting.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. J. Horsman-Potter (07-09-14)
8. Payment Receipt re: Sale of Wire from the Transfer Station
9. Legal Notices: Primary Notice
10. Mansfield Minute – July 2014
11. Connecticut Council of Small Towns re: Membership – Mr. Hart asked Council members to give thought to rejoining COST. He noted that in the past the Town benefited from its legislative work. The Town Manager will confirm the cost to the Town.
12. Government Finance Officers Association re: Certificate of Achievement

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

An agenda item regarding the possibility of rejoining COST will be included on the next agenda.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Mansfield Town Clerk

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